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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Hiroshi YOSHIDA, et al.

Serial No.: 09/740,064

Art Unit: TO BE ASSIGNED

Filed: December 20, 2000

Examiner: TO BE ASSIGNED

For: GAMING MACHINE

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner of
Patent and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Please undertake the following changes:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 4, 6, 8 as follows:

Claim 4 (Amended) The gaming machine according to claim 1, wherein the intermediate control device is controlled in accordance with a command code transmitted from the main control device, and the lower control device is controlled in accordance with a command code transmitted from the intermediate control device.

Claim 6 (Amended) The gaming machine according to claim 5, wherein the lower control device is equipped with a lamp control board.

Claim 8 (Amended) The gaming machine according to claim 7, wherein the lower control device is equipped with a control board

having mounted thereon at least an image control CPU and character ROM.

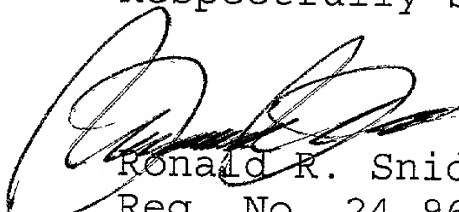
REMARKS

The amendments made to the Claims were made to correct minor errors. The effect of the amendments relate only to matters of form, and the substance of the Claims remain the same. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been added by any of the amendments to the Claims.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version with Marking to Show Changes Made."

It is submitted that the present amendment places the application in good form for allowance, and an early and favorable action for this application is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,


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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Claims:

Claims 4, 6 and 8 have been amended as follows:

Claim 4 (Amended) The gaming machine according to claim 1, wherein the intermediate control **[means] device** is controlled in accordance with a command code transmitted from the main control **[means] device**, and the lower control **[means] device** is controlled in accordance with a command code transmitted from the intermediate control **[means] device**.

Claim 6 (Amended) The gaming machine according to claim 5, wherein the lower control **[means] device** is equipped with a lamp control board.

Claim 8 (Amended) The gaming machine according to claim 7, wherein the lower control **[means] device** is equipped with a control board having mounted thereon at least an image control CPU and character ROM.